for principals, parents and teachers to emphasise the need for a more Child Centred Early Childhood Education Programme, NCERT has also brought out a document entitled 'Minimum specifications for pre-schools' and other resource material for teachers and children. Recommendations of the seminar and other material developed by NCERT have been distributed widely and sent to all States and Union Territories.

Setting up of Youth Development Centres

5099. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Governmet have decided to set up Youth Development Centres in rural parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of such centres and the objectives for which they are to be set up; and

(c) how many such Youth Development Centres are to be set up in Bihar with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) A new scheme of Youth Development Centres is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The objective of the Scheme is to provide an intermediate tier between the youth clubs at the village level and the Nehru Yuva Kendra at the District level. Youth Development Centres are expected to provide the rural Youth with opportunities for full participation in the developmental and recreational activties. There will be a Youth Development Centre for nearly 10 villages each. It is proposed that the scheme will be operated through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.

(c) Exact number of Youth Development centres in Bihar to be set up has not yet been decided.

Child marriage in Rajasthan

5100. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of child marriages is going on unabeted in Rajasthan despite it being a cognizable offence in terms of the Sharda Act; and

(b) whether in view of the State Government's utter ineffectiveness to tackle the situation, what steps Centre propose to take to put an end to this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI) :

(a) and (b) Government is aware of the fact that child marriages are still prevalent in certain parts of the country including Rajasthan. The practice of child marriage is deeply embedded amongst certain sections of society. The elimination of such deep rooted social maladies cannot only be the result of enforcement action, but is also dependent upon a range of other social and economic developmental inputs, like education, awareness generation social and economic empowerment. Government of India has attempted to generate awareness on such issues through various modes; in particular, camps are being organised under the Awareness Generation Programme implemented through non-Governmental organisations/institutions. Assistance is also being given for organising legal literacy programmes and other activities for creating awareness about women's status and rights. The State Government of Rajasthan has also taken a number of steps to eliminate this practice. An anti-child marraige campaign is launched every year to generate social awareness and for taking prompt legal action when report of solemnisation of such marriages are received.

Applications for B. Sc. Nursing Course in Sir S. S. L. Hospital Varanasi

5101. SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications of nurses forwarded by the office of Medical Superintendent of Sir Sunder Lal Hospital, Varanasi for entrance to B. Sc. (Nursing) College of Nursing, Post-Graduate Insti-

tute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications received and forwarded this year for the above course;

(c) the number of applications received and forwarded by Deputy Medical Superintendent but withheld by the office of Medical Superintendent for reasons best known to them;

(d) what are these reasons and the details of such applications which have not been forwarded so far; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to forward these applications well in time ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) According to the information furnished by the Banaras Hindu University, office of the Medical Superintendent of Sir Sunderlal Hospital has not forwarded any application of nurses for entrance to B. Sc. (Nursing) at college of Nursing, Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh during the last three years.

(b) Only one application for entrance to B. Sc (Nursing) course in PGI, Chandigarh was received by the office of Medical Superintendent this year. However, the same has not been forwarded for the above course as the applicant has not completed 5 years substantive service.

(c) to (e) As per the rules, applications of only those candidates who have completed 5 years bond period as per the bond executed by them at the time of entry into the General Nursing Training are considered for the study of B. Sc (Nursing) course. All such applications are placed before the Higher Study Committee and after its approval, the applications are forwarded by the Medical Superintendent to the Registrar of the University for necessary action. There is no direct role of the Deputy Medical Superintendent in this process.

Development of children

5102. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of schemes undertaken by Government for the development of children in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to check child morality in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) The Major schemes undertaken by Government for the development of children in the country include Integrated Child Development Services including Adolescent Girls Scheme, Balwadi Nutrition Programme, Early Childhood Education and Creche/Day Care Centres for children of Working and ailing mothers, child survival and safe motherhood programme as well as scheme for the welfare of street children and prevention and control of Juvenile Maladjustment. Recently a National Creche Fund for Child Care Services has also been set up.

(b) The Government's National Policy on Education lays considerable emphasis on value education as a forceful tool for cultivation of social and moral value amongst children. Schools have been encouraged to include moral instruction classes in their school curriculum. In addition there is also a scheme of Assistance for Strengthening Culture and Values in Education through schools and non-formal education systems.

Conference on Child Survival and Development

5103. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sixth Conference of the Global Task Force on Child Survival and Development was held in February, 1994 in Delhi; and